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THE GENESEE FARMER.

SATURDAY, OCT. 4, 1834.

Where are our Correspondents?

It is a long time since we have heard from many of those, who, in times past, contributed so liberally to the pages of the Genesee Farmer, and imparted to them an interest and reputation highly creditable to their intelligence and skill as Farmers. The question which heads this article has often been put to us, and we have answered it, by expressing the belief that we should soon hear from them now that the long evenings were approaching. We hope also, that beside receiving the aid of our old friends, many who have as yet rendered us no aid, will be induced to furnish us with the results of their experience and their opinions on the subjects to which the Farmer is devoted. We have, we think we may safely say, dozens, if not hundreds, of subscribers, who, could they be induced to write for the Farmer, would materially aid us in our labors and add to the character and value of our journal.

We have recently received a letter from our friend DAN BRADLEY, Esq. and are gratified to learn that his health has much improved since the last winter, and that he will soon resume his labors as a correspondent of this paper. The following is an extract from his letter:

"During the whole season, I have been able to perform manual labor to good advantage, in my garden, in my nursery, and on my small farm. It is my delight to be thus employed. In this way I have spent the season, with the exception of a few weeks, which have been devoted to traveling excursions. My business so completely occupied my time and attention, that I lost all relish for the use of my pen. You know, sir, we have had no rainy days. The weather, all the while, being favorable for the operations in which I was engaged, there was no time when I could, without great self denial, house myself for the purpose of writing. These, sir, are the reasons why I have neglected you; and if any other of your correspondents have done as I have, you may presume they have done so for the same reasons. That an agricultural journal is not, during the summer, so well supplied with original articles, as in other seasons of the year, should be no discouragement to its proprieter. As to yourself, you may, I think confidently expect, after a few weeks, all your correspondents will return to their duty, with increased zeal to sustain and advance the interests of the Farmer. I promise this for myself."

Our first severe frost occurred on Monday night last.

Culture of Melons.

The plan recommended in this paper, by DAVID THOMAS, of planting Melons on ridges, seems to have been tried to a considerable extent the past season; and it has, so far as we have heard, proved highly successful. Several gentlemen have informed us verbally of the gratifying results of their experiments in planting Melons in this way, and assured us that the information they have received on this subject alone was more than equivalent to a year's subscription to the Farmer; besides which, we give in this number the testimony of a correspondent, and an extract from another paper, showing the utility of the proposed plan.

Timber more Durable with the TOP END DOWNWARDS.

Our correspondent DANIEL LONGSTRETH, in a letter to us, says, that he has lately been informed by a miller in that neighborhood that penstocks and other timbers exposed to wet or dampness near the water-wheel, are placed by the millwrights with the top end downward, as they are found to be more durable than when erected in a different position. We hope that observations with regard to this matter may be multiplied; and that the difference in value between the two methods may be more accurately determined.

Breaking Colts.

The habits of a horse, whether good or bad, are frequently the result of the first efforts to subject him to the service of man. On these mainly depend his future usefulness. It cannot be denied but that there are a variety of tempers among these noble animals which may require diversified means to effect their subjection; yet in no case should gentleness be disregarded. The practice, too generally prevalent, of letting colts arrive at almost their full vigor before an attempt is made to accustom them to the *bit* or *saddle*, is believed to be erroneous. By the *saddle*, we do not mean that the colt should be made to bear heavy burdens before he has arrived at a suitable age; but by an early use of it, he will become so habituated to its use, as to receive at a proper time, the addition of weight without remonstrance or fretfulness. If the colt has acquired considerable age before an attempt is made to curb his waywardness, nothing should be neglected to render the attempt successful and decisive. If the colt is to be broke to the saddle, care should be used in securing it firmly upon him, because carelessness in this, may lead to bruised limbs, besides being a positive injury to the temper of the horse. To prevent the colt from rearing, and falling backwards, as is frequently the case, a rope should encircle his body near the fore legs—another, passing over his neck, and between his legs, should be firmly tied to the one enclosing his body, which will effectually prevent his rearing. For further suggestions on this point, we subjoin the following from *Deane's* New England Farmer:

"The way of breaking a young horse that is mostly used in this country, is highly absurd, hurtful and dangerous. He is mounted and put den before he has been used to the bridle or to bearing any weight on his back. If he will not go forward he is most unmercifully beaten; by which his spirits are broken, and his strength impaired. If he rears up, he is pulled backwards, with the risk of hurting both horse and man. If he runs and starts, as he probably will under such management, he flings the rider, perhaps is frightened, gains his liberty, and is encouraged to do just so the next opportunity; and the unfortunate rider blesses himself, as he hits reason to do, if he escape without broken limbs. Or if the horse should chance to go kindly, the rider continues the exercise till the horse is fatigued, discouraged and injured.

"Instead of this mad management, the way practiced in the older countries should be adopted. Let a horse first of all be tamed with the bridle, by leading him again and again; in the first place after, or by the side of another horse; and after he walks well, bring him to trot after his leader. In the next place, put on the saddle, and lead him in that time after time. Then lay a small weight on the saddle, and if he be apt to start, fasten it, that it may not be flung off, increasing the weight from time to time, till he learns to carry what is equal to a man's weight. Lastly, let a man gently mount him, while another holds him by the bridle, and fix himself firmly in the saddle. The place of riding is recommended to be a ploughed field. Let him thus be ridden with a horse going before him, till he learns the use of the bit, and will stop, or go forward at the pleasure of the rider, and without the application of much force. Being exercised in this manner a few times, and treated with all possible gentleness, there will be no more occasion for leading him. He will go well of himself; and be thoroughly broken, without so much as giving him one blow, and without danger or fatigue to the horse or his rider. And, what is much to be regarded, the horse's spirits will be preserved, though he be sufficiently tamed. In teaching a horse to draw, gentleness must be used. He should be tried first in company with other horses, whether in carting or ploughing; and the draught should not be so heavy as to fret him or put him to great exertion till he has learned to draw steadily. After this he may be put to a pleasure carriage, but coupled with another rather than alone, and to a sleigh rather than a chaise."

The Mashannock Potato.

We received, in a letter from a subscriber in Indiana, last week, a small fine looking Potato, of which he gives the following account:

"I send you in this letter, the celebrated Mashannock Potato of the west. I call it the Mashannock of the west, as it was produced from a seed of the Mercer Potato, by an old Irish woman, in Columbiana county, Ohio, about the year 1820. This variety spread over the country in 1824 with such rapidity as to reach almost every farm that year. Since that time it has had no rival among the old varieties. It remains in full perfection to the present day. The Mashannock potato greatly resembles the Mercer of Pennsyl-

vania, but is superior to it in every respect. The Mercer potato is shorter and whiter, and I believe the product not more than one fourth as much. If your farmers have not this kind of potato already, they will do well to try it.

"The Mashannock has vines of a beautiful light yellow color, medium size, soft and spreading. A common potato is six inches long, as thick as a man can span, and flattened in its form. Overgrown ones are much larger, some seasons weighing from two to three pounds, with lumps on the sides. The vines bear a moderate quantity of small seed-balls, and some seasons when the crop is very good the ground is nearly covered with them. These seed-balls make the greatest variety of potatoes, and the most promising kinds of any I have tried. They sport in endless variety of early and late, large and small, and all colors except red. Of 1000 seedlings raised by myself in 1832, not one was red, mostly long shaped and excellent."

Autumnal Flowers.

(*Continued.*)

Another species of Centaurea, the Yellow Sultan (*C. suaveolens*) has one of the most beautiful flowers of this color; but without care to collect the seeds and to plant them, it is soon lost.

The Purple Sultan (*C. moschata*) is more hardy; and when it comes up late in summer, it will survive till another year. A few plants have kept a place in my garden for some years in succession without any attention or culture. It runs into a variety with white flowers, though mine were all purple at first.

The Crimson Velvet Cockscomb (*Celosia cristata*) is a plant in which beauty and singularity combine. Like many others, it rewards the cultivator in proportion to his care and kindness.

There are various species of the kindred genera *Convolvulus* and *Ipomea* with fine flowers, but which become troublesome unless each has a support exclusively appropriated to itself. Of this kind is *C. purpureus* with *purple*, and *striped*, and *variegated*, corols. The last variety though very remarkable, has not to my knowledge been offered for sale in a seed store. The Cypress Vine (*I. quamoclit*) possesses uncommon beauty; and grows best with a liberal supply of stable manure.

The Red Hawkweed (*Crepis rubra*) and the Golden Hawkweed (*C. barbata* called *Tolpis* by some authors) are both very desirable plants. The former soon runs out without care.

Euphorbia variegata is a plant of extraordinary aspect and beauty, from beyond the Mississippi. It rarely, if ever, produces good seeds in our gardens.

The Globe Amaranth (*Gomphrena globosa*) in both its white and purple varieties is elegant; and retains the brightness and freshness of its colors even when it is dried.

The African Hibiscus (*H. africana*) is nearly allied to the bladder Catmia (*H. trionum*) but it is a finer plant. Mine produced no ripe seed, but perhaps it might do better with us in a more sheltered situation, and where the heat of the day would be increased by reflection from a wall or building.

The White Candytuft (*Iberis amara*) though pretty, is inferior to the Purple Candytuft (*I. umbellata*) which has very fine colors.

The Marvel of Peru (*Mirabilis jalapa*) is very interesting; and though perennial, it will bear to be treated as an annual. Red and white, and red and yellow, in great freshness, commonly constitute the colors of its blossoms. The flowers of another species, (*M. longiflora*) though less brilliant, is very sweet scented, and remarkable for the length of the tube.

A few other kinds may be more briefly noticed. *Schisanthus pinnatus* with its streaked or spotted corol, is elegant; and so is *Coreopsis tinctoria* with its purple eye. The Balsam (*Impatiens balsamina*) has a great variety of colors and markings finely contrasted, with dark brown, the *spreading* French Marigold (*Tagetes patula*) shades its yellow petals, while the *upright* African Marigold (*Tagetes erecta*) assumes the hue of the orange or of the lemon. The Ice and Dew plants (*Mesembryanthemum crystallinum et glabrum*) are very pretty. The Sensitive Plant (*Mimosa sensitiva*) continues to be a wonder; but scarcely more so than the Squirting Cucumber (*Momordica elaterium*) which throws its seeds with violence to a distance the moment that it is loosened from its stem. The Scarlet Pentapetes (*P. phœnicea*) is handsome, but I have not always succeeded in its culture. The White Egg plant (*Solanum melongena*) is admired for its fruit. The Golden and Purple Eternal Flowers (*Xeranthemum lucidum et annuism*) retain their colors living or dead. A frost which destroys or blackens the green leaves, has no effect on the flowers; and on this account, their aspect late in the season is very singular. The latter readily becomes naturalized in the garden. There is only one more that I shall name. The Nasturtium (*Tropœolum majus*) is one of the brightest flowers of the season; and when arranged in the border with the fairest delegates of every climate, it suffers no eclipse.

September and October.

GARDENER'S WORK.

Hoe and thin your growing crops of spinach. Sow a full crop of prickly-seeded kind for winter and spring use. And, at the same time a good supply of the early short-top, white and red turnep-rooted and salmon radishes. Earth up celery as it advances in growth, but be careful to avoid covering the hearts of the plants. This work should be done in a dry day. See that you do not bruise or injure the stalks; for if they are crushed or wounded they will be subject to rot. Gather all kinds of seeds as they ripen, which may be necessary for the ensuing season. Towards the latter end of September, you may safely transplant all kinds of hardy perennial, aromatic and medicinal herbs, which will thus become well rooted before winter. This work should, if possible, be done in moist weather. Pull and preserve pour ripe onions, and sow more to stand over winter. Protect your grapes and other fruit against wasps. This may be done by hanging up phials of honied or sugared water near the fruit you wish to defend from their attacks, in which many of the tiny depredators will be caught and destroyed. Thoroughly clean from weeds all the seed-beds and young plantations of trees, shrubs, &c. Gather cucumbers and mangoes for pickling before they spot. Sow cauliflowers about the 20th.

The young cabbage plants, produced from seeds sown in October, and intended for early summer cabbages, should be transplanted into the beds in which they are to remain during winter.

Prepare a bed for them, the width of your garden frame, in a warm, well sheltered place, where the sun hath the greatest power; yet be careful never to admit the direct sunshine on the plants when in a frozen state. When you have no glasses, the plants may be protected during winter by boards or mats, giving them air in mild weather. Cauliflowers sown in August or September should be raised carefully, and protected during the cold season, in garden frames with boards, mats, &c., or perhaps some may survive if set in open borders, or they may be set in pots. Weed and thin your late crops of spinach, leaving the best plants at the distance of three, four, or five inches asunder. Early in October, hoe and earth up the late planted crops of cabbages, brocoli, and borecole, cauliflowers and other plants of the brassica genus. Towards the end of the month, if the stalks of asparagus turn yellow, cut them close to the earth; clear the beds and alleys from weeds, and carry them with the stalks off the ground. It will then not be amiss to cover the beds and alleys with old litter, well trodden down, to be removed in the spring. Or you may apply manure now instead of in spring. Cut down all decayed flower stems, and shoots of the various kinds of aromatic, pot and medicinal herbs, close to the plants; clear the beds from weeds and litter, and carry the whole off the ground. Onions may now be planted out to raise seed, instead of setting them in the spring. The seeds of dill, skirret, rhubarb, sea-kale, may now be sown; for, if kept out of ground till spring, many of them will not vegetate till a year after; but when sown in October or November, if the seeds are fresh and perfect they will vegetate the April following. Begin to take up and secure potatoes, beets, carrots, parsneps, turneps, Jerusalem artichoke, &c. Give a general hoeing and weeding to all your crops, and carry the weeds out of the garden. Such spaces of ground as are now vacant should be dunged, dug or trenched, and thus have the advantage of a winter fallow, and that exposure to frost which will reduce it to fine tilth, and destroy worms, the larvæ of insects, &c. The old beds of strawberries should, some time in October, be cleaned from weeds, and the vines or runners be taken off close to the plants; then if there be room, loosen the earth to a moderate depth between the plants, taking care not to disturb the roots. And if the plants are in beds with alleys between, line out the alleys, and let them be dug a moderate depth, breaking the earth very fine and spreading a sufficiency of it over the beds, between and round the beds, taking care not to bury their tops. A slight top dressing of compost such as described may now be applied. It may now be time to gather and preserve apples and pears, though it is best to let them remain on the trees as long as they are safe from frost. If you are not apprehensive of the depredations of mice, rats, squirrels, &c. you may sow the stones of plums, peaches, nectarines, apricots, &c. or you may if you think it more prudent, preserve them in sand till March or April.—*Forsyth's New American Gardener.*

From the New-York Farmer.

Curing Butter.

A writer signing himself "Old Dutchess," says, butter should be cured without the aid of water. "The practice I recommend," says he, "from long experience, is as follows: When the butter comes from the churn, put it in a clean wooden bowl, and with a wooden butter ladle proceed to work it, by breaking it down at the sides and turning off the whey which is separated in the process; at the same time strew on the salt by degrees, so that it becomes intimately incorporated. Continue working it thus until the butter-milk is apparently all worked out. Put it then by in a cold cellar till next morning, by which time the salt is dissolved, when the ladle is to be again applied, and continued as long as any butter-milk can be separated. The butter is then fit for use or laying down. For preserving, stone-ware jars are preferable, as they impart no taste to the butter, and exclude the air. Pack down the butter without any salt between the layers, and cover with two inches of strong brine, previously boiled, skimmed and suffered to become cold. If a scum should afterwards appear on the brine, which will sometimes happen in damp cellars, renew the pickle. The impurities which rise to the surface while boiling, or are found in the residuum at the bottom, are far greater than any one would suppose who is not in the habit of boiling his brine for meats, butter, &c. Butter thus manufactured and cured will keep a twelvemonth or more perfectly sweet; and the rich delicacy of flavor imparted to that made in May and June, by the young herbage, will be in a great measure preserved. It is compact, without being too adhesive; cuts with a smooth surface, and shows neither lumps of salt, butter-milk, nor crumbles."

From the Cultivator.

Management of Sheep.

Sir—As I have seen but little in the Cultivator on the management of sheep, and am interested in that part of agricultural pursuits, I venture to direct to you a few thoughts in hopes it may call the attention of others to the subject, more competent than myself. It is allowed by all as I am informed, that the grub in the head of sheep is caused by a fly in the hot season; to avoid the bad effects of which, I would recommend that they have better pasture in the months of July and August, so as to be able to get their supply of food without being obliged to feed in the middle of the day. I have observed that sheep will do well on very short feed early in the season, and think it best if they are to be kept short, it should be done at that time, and reserve for them good feed through the hot season. Flocks of sheep kept close are more likely to be troubled with them than those well kept, and some suppose want of strength to throw off the grub makes the difference, but I think it is being under the necessity of feeding in the heat of the day. Short keeping makes fine wool, but I believe it is best for every wool grower not to overstock, but keep well what he does keep. My practice has been, to select in the fall my poorest sheep from the others and give them better feed, so that all shall be in good condition for winter; in managing in that way, I have lost less sheep in winter than in summer—my lambs I wean the latter part of August and give them the best feed I have, till winter; about the first of November, or whenever the feed becomes injured with frost, I begin to feed them oats in the sheaf; to 60 or 70 lambs I give two bundles a day till about the first of January, and then one bundle a day till February, after which I feed no more grain. In that way I have been able to get my lambs through the winter, strong and healthy, and out of the above number, for several years I have not lost more than to average one a year.

From the Southern Planter.

Preserving Grapes.

I last year made a little experiment in preserving Grapes on the vine, which I am induced to make public from its success; hoping it may be of service to others who wish to have this fine fruit both in season and out of season. To almost every one it is known that there are many kinds of Grapes that will remain sound on the vine for a long time, if they are not destroyed by birds or wasps. To prevent this, I have several small bags made, of proper size to contain one or more clusters of grapes, (where they may be contiguous,) from some old musquito netting, which was otherwise useless. When the fruit was ripe, I drew them over the finest bunches and tied them tight round the stem. From the season being somewhat wet, I was under apprehension they might rot, and from time to time gathered some—but I never found one rotten grape. The last I gathered was on the morning of the first frost, last autumn; which I think was on the 20th November. They were all of the finest flavor possible, and almost as transparent as glass.

The experiment I tried on the Warrenton Grape only. But I have no doubt it would succeed as well with the Bland Madeira, Catawba, Isabella, and every other variety of Native Grapes. Any material will answer for bags that will admit a circulation of air. S. Rose.

Cultivation of Barley,

AS PRACTICED BY THE BEST FARMERS IN ENGLAND.

Barley delights in a sandy soil. It generally succeeds wheat, the land being broken up as soon after Christmas as it will admit the plough. It is ploughed and harrowed in March. In April this operation is again repeated; the husbandman afterwards taking care to render, with the harrow and roller, the entire surface as even and as level as possible. Sometimes the ground is only ploughed once, and the seed sown above; but more frequently it is broken by three ploughings, notwithstanding they may not have more than a week to perform them in. This, at first sight, appears an injudicious practice, the ploughings being so quick upon each other, neither the root weeds have time to wither, nor the seed weeds to vegetate. But this being a frequent practice of some of the best farmers, we may be assured that two ploughings and harrowings are not wantonly thrown away. The Norfolk farmers are in general masters of the art of cultivating barley. They seem fully aware of the tenderness of this plant in its infant state, and of its rootings being unable to make the proper progress in a compact or a proper soil; they therefore strive by every means in their power, to render the soil as fine as ashes, and fit for the reception of the seed. The proper time for sowing the seed is from the middle of April to the middle of May; but the time depends in some measure upon the season; the true period is *just before the oak puts on that sallow appearance*, which it does at the time the buds are breaking, previous to the expansion of the leaves. Three bushels are usually allowed to an acre, and sown broadcast; it is then ploughed under with a shallow furrow, an admirable practice in soils light enough to produce good barley, provided the seed is not buried too deep. If the season however is wet, and the soil cold and heavy, the seed should be cast upon the surface and then harrowed and rolled, as is the practice in other districts. —*Alden's Treatise on the art of Bread-Making*.

From the Maine Farmer.

Wheat on Clover Sod.

I am induced to lay before the public my actual experience in raising wheat on clover turned in, not because there was the greatest yield, but to encourage others to do likewise, and if possible render Maine independent for that necessary of life, BREAD. About the 10th of November last, I paced off what I supposed to be about one acre of land that had been mowed two years, which had been seeded to herds-grass and clover, principally clover, and had yielded a good crop of that kind of hay the two previous years, say about two tons each year. The soil may be called a sandy loam, inclining to clay. In the spring at the usual time, it was sowed to wheat, partly Malaga, and partly what is called lake wheat—when ripe it was gathered, and there were two loads of nearly equal size one of which I have thrashed, which gave about 13 bushels, if the other was 12, there was 25 bushels—this induced me to have the land measured, and I found it lacked (taking out for stumps, &c.) 20 rods of an acre, adding for the 20 rods at the same rate, three bushels and a half, and we have 28 1-2 bushels to the acre. I put on after the land was rolled down, one and a half bushels of plaster, and no other manure was used. It is well seeded to clover and promises a good crop for two years to come, and then as good wheat as this year. I think I could have ploughed it for $2,50

Seed and sowing,	3,00
Harrowing in and rolling,	1,00
Harvesting,	2,50
	9,00
28 bushels of wheat at $1,25,	35,63
Expense,	9,00
	$26,63

It will be seen that I have not charged the thrashing, nor have I included the straw as fodder or manure. It will also be perceived that I have not charged the plaster, as I expect much more benefit than it was worth to the succeeding crops of clover. ELIJAH WOOD.

A SOURCE OF DISEASE.—The effluvia of rotten substances are supposed to breed diseases. The farmer, therefore, should be cautious that he do not breathe in the steams of his old dunghills more than is necessary, especially when they have a disagreable stench. And the greatest care should be taken to remove or cover up all the filth of the house, and of the hog-pen, which no doubt occasions some of those autumnal epidemic diseases, not unfrequently as fatal in country villages in proportion to numbers as in the thickly settled towns on the coast. Scattering quicklime over any substance which emits unwholesome effluvia will correct the evil.

For the Genesee Farmer.

The Chinese Mulberry.

I should be interested to learn the result of our friend W. W. B.'s experiments on the Chinese Mulberry. Last spring I set about fifty *cuttings*, a part only of which has grown, but these are in fine condition. I have also tried *layers*, but I rather prefer the former method.

Two years ago, as the stems of the Chinese Mulberry continued to grow late in the season, so that the wood was not well matured, apprehending that the tops would be damaged by the cold, I laid them down in the manner of treating exotic grapes, covering them with a little earth. The experiment turned out badly however, and I am satisfied that the greatest severity of winter would have been less injurious: the whole of them were nearly killed to the roots and I lost every layer that had been removed. At the same time Dr. Stephen Mosher's, at Union Springs, that were left exposed to the weather, sustained very little damage. D. T.

Greatfield, 9 mo. 25, 1834.

For the Genesee Farmer.

On Rolling Wheat.

Some farmers in this neighborhood, have given the finish to putting in their wheat by rolling the fields smooth; but my experience is opposed to this practice. For mowing indeed, the ground cannot be too smooth; and wheat that is well matted above and well rooted below, will doubtless be less affected; but late sown wheat that comes up through a smooth uniform surface, is much more exposed and injured by the sweeping winds than wheat that grows on ground left rough by the tracks of the harrow. The difference is very great; and if there should be any of your readers who doubt it let them run the harrow in a few places across the rolled field, and observe the result next spring.

The best time for rolling wheat and preparing the ground for the scythe is in the spring.

A Ploughman.

For the Genesee Farmer.

Culture of Melons.

Mr. L. Tucker—I take the liberty through the medium of your paper, to return my sincere thanks to our worthy and esteemed friend, D. T., for his excellent communication, Genesee Farmer, vol. 4, page 137, on ridging the ground for Melons. I immediately adopted this plan on a piece of sward ground which I ploughed up deep, and by drawing three loads of fresh stable manure into one heap, covering it with inverted sods, &c., as near as possible in the manner recommended. On this mound or ridge, I planted five hills of Watermelons and three of Muskmelons, which in three days came up—it being something that I never saw before in so short a time. I then anticipated having some good melons, which I have not had for many years; but the plants were destroyed by the streaked bug. Again I planted, and they also were destroyed Again, the third time, were they planted, and came up at the usual time, in about three or four days. With a great deal of care and attention, we saved them from the enemy; and they grew luxuriantly, suffering less in dry weather than those planted on the ground, and the result was, "an abundant crop of very fine melons."

After the destruction of the plants the second time, I thought my labor would be in vain, but I was induced to try once more. I think, however, if they had not been destroyed in the first place, the melons would have been much better and many more of them. There were other places fixed, such as trenches and deep holes and filled with rich compost and stable manure. The earth consisting of a sandy loam, was then thrown back on the manure, forming a ridge about a foot in hight, gently rounded on the top. These experiments also proved successful. The season has been uncommonly dry; but the melons planted on the mound and ridges, suffered very little in comparison to those planted on the ground.

I should be much pleased to hear from such of your correspondents as have tried this system of improvement this season, and the result of their experience. It certainly cannot fail to be of utility to every practical horticulturist, especially those interested in the melon culture. S.

B———, Sept. 28, 1834.

The following is from the Fredonia Censor:

Large Melon.—Mr. Joseph E. Loomis, of Sheridan, picked from his vines last week, a Muskmelon, which measured lengthwise 3 feet 7½ inches, around it 29½ inches, and weighed 19 3-4 lbs. He *said* it was of a most delicious flavor. He planted the seed from which it grew, after a plan described in the Genesee Farmer.

For the Genesee Farmer.

On the Manners of the Common RAT.

The manners of animals, and more especially their intercourse among themselves, has always interested me. From the principles implanted by Omnipotent Wisdom, to govern their behavior, there is *the least* deviation among those of the lowest orders of intellect; and *the greatest* among those which occasionally exercise their reasoning faculties, as the elephant and the dog. *Pope* who understood this subject very imperfectly, has given us one line however, of great truth:

"Instinct can't vary, Reason may go wrong."

The disposition to build a nest is an *instinctive* impulse; and hence all birds of the same species invariably fashion their nests alike.

It is not my design however, to write a dissertation, but to say that few things have interested me more than the account given by the unfortunate *Latude*, of his TAMED RATS, which I shall copy for the columns of the Genesee Farmer. And by way of preface it may be proper to remark that this talented nobleman was imprisoned in the reigns of Louis XV. and Louis XVI. for the term of thirty-five years in the Bastile and other dungeons. It was while he was immured in the former prison, a victim of the most execrable tyranny, that he resorted to the following method to relieve the tediousness of solitary confinement:

"For a long time I had enumerated amongst my greatest annoyances, the presence of a crowd of rats, who came continually hunting for food, and lodging in my straw. Sometimes when I was asleep, they ran across my face; any more than once by biting me severely, occasioned the most acute suffering. Unable to get rid of them, and forced to live in their society, I conceived the idea of forming a friendship with them. They soon condescended to receive me; and I owe to them the only agreeable relaxation I have experienced during the thirty-five years of my captivity. Let me describe the progress of this interesting friendship.

"The dungeons of the Bastile were octagonal; the one where I was confined had a loop hole two feet and a half above the floor. On the inside it was two feet long, and about eighteen inches wide; but it gradually diminished towards the exterior, so that on the outside of the wall, it scarcely exceeded three inches in size. From this loop hole alone I derived the only light and air I was permitted to enjoy. The stone which formed the base of it served me also for chair and table. When tired of reclining on a foul and infected pallet, I dragged myself to the loop hole to imbibe a little of the fresh air; and to lighten the weight of my chains, I rested my elbows and arms on this horizontal stone. Being one day in this attitude, I saw a large rat appear at the other extremity of the loop hole. I called him to me; he looked at me without showing any fear, and I gently threw him a piece of bread, taking care not to frighten him away by a violent action. He approached—took the bread—went to a little distance to eat it, and appeared to ask for a second piece. I flung him another, but at less distance; a third nearer still, and so on by degrees. This continued as long as I had bread to give him; for after satisfying his appetite, he carried off to a hole the fragments he had not devoured. The following day he came again. I treated him with the same generosity, and added even a morsel of meat, which he appeared to find more palatable than the bread. For this time he ate in my presence, which before he had not done. The third day, he became sufficiently familiar to take what I offered him from my fingers.

"I have no idea where his dwelling place was before, but he appeared inclined to change it, to approach nearer to me. He discovered on each side of the window, a hole sufficiently large for his purpose. He examined them both and fixed his abode in the one to the right, which appeared to him the most convenient. On the fifth day he came to sleep there for the first time. The following morning, he paid me a very early visit. I gave him his breakfast. When he had eaten heartily, he left me, and I saw him no more till the next day, when he came according to custom. I saw as soon as he issued from his hole, that he was not alone. I observed a female rat peeping from it, and apparently watching our proceedings. I tried to entice her out, by throwing her bread and meat. She seemed more timid than the other, and for some time refused to take them; however at last she ventured out of the hole by degrees, and seized what I threw half way towards her. Sometimes she quarreled with the male; and when she proved either stronger or more skillful, ran back to the hole carrying with her what she had taken. When this happened the male rat crept close up to me for consolation; and to revenge himself on the other, ate what I gave him too far from the hole for her to venture to dispute it with him, but always pretending to exhibit his prize as if in bravado. He would then seat himself on his haunches, holding the bread or meat between his fore paws like a monkey, and nibbling it with an air of defiance.

"One day the pride of the female conquered her shyness. She sprang out and seized between her teeth the morsel which the other was beginning to munch. Neither would let go—and they

rolled over each other to the hole, into which the female who was nearest to it, dragged the male after her. This extraordinary spectacle relieved by contrast, the monotony of my ordinary sufferings and recollections. In the bustle of the world, it is difficult to conceive the pleasures I derived from such a trifling source, but there are sensitive minds who will readily understand it.

"When my dinner was brought in, I called my companions. The male ran to me directly; the female according to custom, came slowly and timidly, but at length approached close to me, and ventured to take what I offered her from my hand. Some time after, a third appeared, who was much less ceremonious than my first acquaintances. After his second visit, he constituted himself one of the family; and made himself so perfectly at home that he resolved to introduce his comrades. The next day he came accompanied by two others, who in the course of the week brought five more; and thus in less than a fortnight, our family circle consisted of ten large rats and myself. I gave each of them *names which they learned to distinguish*. When I called them, they came to eat with me from the dish, or off the same plate; but I found this unpleasant, and was forced to find them a dish for themselves, on account of their slovenly habits. They became so tame, that they allowed me to scratch their necks, and appeared pleased when I did so; but they would never permit me to touch them on the back. Sometimes I amused myself with making them play, and joining in their gambols. Occasionally I threw them a piece of meat scalding hot: the most eager ran to seize it, burned themselves, cried out and left it; while the less greedy who had waited patiently, took it when it was cool, and escaped into a corner where they divided their prize. Sometimes I made them jump up, by holding a piece of bread or meat suspended in the air.

"There was among them a female whom I had named *Rapino Hyrondelle* on account of her agility. I took great pleasure in making her jump; and so confident was she of her superiority over all the others that she never condescended to take what I held up for them. She placed herself in the attitude of a dog pointing at game,—allowed one of the rats to spring at the morsel offered to him, and at the moment when he had seized it, would dart forward, and snatch it out of his mouth. It was unlucky for him if she missed her spring, for then she invariably seized him by the neck with her teeth as sharp as needles: the other yelling with pain, would leave his prey at her mercy, and creep into a corner to cure the wounds she had inflicted on him.

"With these simple and innocent occupations I continued for two years to divert my mind from constantly brooding over my miseries. I found myself in the midst of a family who *loved* and interested me. In less than a year it amounted to twenty-six. I was certain there were no strangers amongst them. Those who attempted to obtain admittance, were received with hostility, and compelled to fight with the first who encountered them. These battles afforded me most an amusing spectacle. As soon as the two champions placed themselves in position, they appeared at once to estimate their respective force before a blow was struck. The stronger gnashed his teeth while the weaker uttered cries, and retreated slowly without turning his back, as fearful lest his adversary would spring upon and devour him. On the other hand, the stronger never attacks in front, which would expose him to the danger of having his eyes torn out. The method he adopts is ingenious and amusing: he places his head between his fore paws, and rolls head over heels two or three times until the middle of his back comes in contact with his enemy's nose. The latter attempts to fly: the former selects that moment to seize him—he grasps him at once, and sometimes they fight most furiously. If any other rats are present, they remain passive spectators of the combat, and never join two against one."

From the Farmer's Register.

Ploughing in Cornstalks,

THE CHEAPEST MODE OF USING THEM FOR MANURE.

[The several operations of carting our cornstalks to the barnyards, converting them to manure, and then carrying them to be restored to the soil, require so large a portion of the labor of good farmers, are so generally neglected by others, that it would be a most desirable result to obtain the same benefit for the soil by much less labor. There can be no doubt of the great diminution of labor by the practice described in the following letter, of ploughing in the stalks, whole and unrooted, before sowing wheat. The doubt is, whether the soil receives equal benefit, and whether there may not thence arise some positive damage to the wheat crop. If the practice is beneficial as late as wheat is usually sown, it must be more so earlier, when the stalks retain much of their sap: and therefore, it would suit well to be used in conjunction with the plan of gathering corn before it is dry, as described in No. 1. of the Farmer's Register.—*Ed. Far. Reg.*]

"*Kennon's, Amelia, November 19th*, 1833.

Dear Sir,—I will with pleasure answer the inquiries respecting my method of ploughing in cornstalks—but feel somewhat ashamed that the only communication made for the Register, by me, should be on the subject of *cornstalks*. The saving of labor in cutting down the stalks before gathering the ears, as detailed in my former letter, I deem of great importance, and regret that so few farmers have been prevailed on to adopt it. I assert as the result of *experience* that if six hands be necessary to cut down and pick up corn, on the old plan, so as to keep ahead of your ploughs, that of four *inexperienced* hands, can, with the short helved hoe, do it, and with three days experience, three will do the same with ease. But to return to the subject of ploughing in cornstalks. If the corn has been cultivated on a smooth surface (I mean without beds,) after gathering the ears, the stalks are cut with a long helved hoe, so as to cause them to fall promiscuously over the land. We commence ploughing (say with four two-horse ploughs,) a large land; (around the hill, if there be any) after going round twice, one active boy or girl follows the ploughs, picking up *only* such stalks as remain uncovered on the *ploughed land*, and laying them in the furrow of the last or hindermost plough, to be covered as the ploughs come round again. If your ploughs turn well, and the land be not very grassy, I think they will cover three-fourths of the stalks, leaving only one-fourth to be picked up, and laid in the furrows. I very frequently sow the wheat before ploughing, (guarding against covering it too deep,) and level the land with a bush or light log. If the land be ploughed before sowing the wheat, we harrow, of course, the same way the land was ploughed, to avoid pulling up the stalks.

If the corn has been planted on beds, we use the short helved hoe, in cutting the stalks, and lay them in the water furrow, to be covered by the ploughs. The information here given, is designed for your own use. After having tried the system, if approved, your recommendation would have more influence, than fifty of mine. I think the stalks thus managed, improve the land. I am sure you derive all the advantage that the stalk itself possesses.

The communication of Mr. Bruce in the last Register, I deem of more importance to the country, between tide-water and the Blue Ridge, than any article heretofore published by you. I have been practicing the horizontal ditching for several years, and have no hesitation in saying, if the system had been adopted fifty years ago, that that section of the country, now, would be worth fifty per cent more than it is. I had designed a communication for the Register on the subject, connected with the planting and cultivation of Indian corn—but if his had not rendered mine unnecessary, a communication in the last Register, signed E. R. in which five or six ploughings, and three or four hoeings are directed, would have deterred me.* After planting, I never plough the land but twice, and this year, used the hoes but once. You will perceive from the many interlineations that I have written in great haste. It is now ten o'clock at night: I cannot copy. You have my best wishes for success in your laudable undertaking; and the proffer of my feeble, but zealous efforts to serve you as you may direct. Very respectfully your friend,

J. H. S.

Renovating Asparagus Beds.

The following abstract of an article contained in the Memoirs of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, is taken from the Horticultural Register:

"Mr. Robertson says, in the year 1813, he found his aparagus quarter very much exhausted, by reason of the ground being too coarse and poor, and shoots having been too severely cut in former years. Having a quantity of furnace ashes which had lain for some years, he had them sifted, and mixed with a small portion of vegetable earth, formed from tree leaves; this compost was allowed to lie for about two months, and at the latter end of the month of October he commenced top-dressing, by taking off the old soil to about the depth of from six to nine inches; at least as deep as could be got without injuring the plants. The above compost of leaf-mould and ashes was then laid on, so as to cover the crown of the plants, about four inchs deep. On the approach of winter, the quarter was covered with stable dung, to prevent their being injured; and frequently, during winter, he poured as much of the drainings of the dunghill as could be collected; and by using these means, Mr. Robertson says, the shoots have been the best both in size, quantity, and quality, that he ever beheld.

"The top-dressing compost might thus be made:—

"One-fourth sandy peat-moss, from the surface of a dry heath.

"One-fourth furnace ashes, well sifted.

"One-fourth vegetable mould, formed from tree leaves.

"One-fourth well-rotted stable dung, with a small portion of quick-lime. The whole well mixed together."

A friend informed us that he had for many years, when dressing his asparagus beds, removed all the soil, until he reached the crown of the plants, (taking care however, not to injure the buds,) manure was then applied to the plants, which thus received the full benefits. The soil was then replaced, and nothing more was done, except to loose it with the fork in the spring. He had by this method, renovated several old beds, which had become very unproductive; he had also found it very efficient in keeping them in good condition. We have not tried it but agree with him, as to its utility, when manure is applied in the usual way, and forked in, a small portion only reaches the roots of the asparagus plants, which are covered several inches with soil, this, to be sure, is made very rich, but the roots cannot

*Our correspondent has mistaken the purport of the piece he refers to: but even if otherwise, any incorrect opinions previously presented to our readers, would make statements of better practices so much the more desirable.—*Ed. Far. Reg.*

receive nourishment from what is buried above, and separated from them by extraneous matter. The only benefit they receive is from the salts which are carried down to them by the rain water filtering through. There is, also, (we are inclined to think,) an error in the mode of planting, and after culture–it is in planting them too deep. The finest we ever saw, were not more than two or three inches below the soil.—*So. Agr.*

Laying Down Grass Lands.

In 1825, the Massachusetts Agricultural Society awarded a Premium of $30 to the Rev. Morrill Allen, for his experiment to prove the best season and mode of laying down lands to grass. The following is Allen's statement:

"Several disappointments in my expectation of a Crop of Grass after sowing the seed in the Spring with Grain induced me as early as the year 1807 to try the effects of Autumnal sowing; my first experiment was made on about 16 rods of land, a part of which was sowed in the month of October with Rye and Herds Grass, and the residue with Herds Grass seed alone; the cold weather did not commence very early in that year, and both the Rye, and Grass, had considerably extended their roots before winter. In the following Summer at the time of reaping, the Grass had grown so tall among the Rye that much of it was cut with the sickle; but it appeared less healthy and vigorous than the Grass which was sowed alone; this produced nearly a full Crop the first year, and endured unusually well afterwards. The next year the Crop where the Rye had been raised, appeared to me to be considerably better than usual after Spring sowing with grain, but less than on the other part; the result of this experiment encouraged me to sow Grass seed in the Fall, and without Grain. In several successive years I ploughed and sowed my fields after Indian Harvest; the Crops were generally much more abundant than Spring sowing; but in some instances when the Autumn proved cold, the first crop was imperfect, and intermixed with some weeds; I supposed earlier sowing would be more certainly successful; and in 1820, about an acre and a quarter of land, which had been naked fallowed, was sowed with Herds Grass, and Red Clover, between the 1st and 20th of September. In 1821, the Herds Grass was ripe for cutting; at the usual season 15th of July, it was unusually tall, but not so thick set as in subsequent years; very little of the Clover appeared the first year; it increased in the 2d and 3d years; the usual order seemed to be exactly reversed in this instance. When Clover and Herds Grass are sowed with Spring Grain, the first Crop is chiefly Clover; afterwards there is a greater proportion of Herds Grass; this circumstance has lead many farmers to the conclusion that it requires more time to establish the roots of Herds Grass in the earth, and prepare them to produce a full Crop, than it does the roots of Clover; every experiment I have made has tended to prove this a wrong conclusion, and that Herds Grass naturally comes forward earlier than Clover—the reason why the appearance has so often been otherwise, probably is the obstruction produced by the Grain Crop on the growth of Grass; the Clover being a tap rooted plant, is not so much obstructed as the Herds Grass; and drawing some of its nourishment from a greater depth, it soon ascends the injury; unobstructed by Grain, I have observed that Herds Grass always takes the lead of Clover in its growth. In the Spring of 1823 I ploughed about 3 acres of land on which Indian Corn grew the preceding year; nearly half the field was a cold clayey soil, and the residue a gravelly knoll; it was sowed the 1st of May with Oats, Herds Grass, and Clover seed; another field of 3 acres, the soil clayey, and apparently of the same quality with the low part of the other field, was naked fallowed; it was ploughed 4 or 5 times, and sowed with Herds Grass and Clover, the 1st of September; the comparison could properly be made only between the low part of the first field, and this, where there was no perceivable difference in the character of the soils; in 1824 the quantity of Hay per acre on the land sowed in the Fall, was at least double to that on the land sowed in the Spring, and with Grain; the past season the difference was not as great, yet very observable. The same experiment was repeated in 1824 on about 4 acres of light sandy soil; the seed on the fallowed land in that year was sowed the last of August; the season was uncommonly dry; and where oats were sowed scarcely any Herds Grass appeared the past season; but that part sowed with grass seed alone produced a good crop for light soil, and at this time there appears to be on it a sufficient number of grass plants, while the other part of the field looks like exhausted land. From the results of these several experiments I am lead to believe the best time to commit grass seed to the earth, is from the 15th of August to the 15th of September; this time seems to accord with the intentions of nature, it is the season of ripeness in the seed when it spontaneously falls on the ground; Grass seed which is sowed in the last of Summer, or the beginning of Autumn, is rarely if ever obstructed in its early growth by drouth, which often proves destructive to young Grass in the Summer months; it gets firm hold of the ground before Winter, and in the following Spring grows more rapidly than Grass on land which has been hardened by the heat of Summer, and the growth of a Grain Crop. The season which appears to me to be the best for sowing Grass seed, is far from being the most convenient for farmers; they cannot often do it at that time without too little preparation of the soil to receive seed, or the loss of one Crop; my experiments have proved to my own satisfaction, that much later sowing is preferable to Spring sowing with Grain; in one instance I prepared the land late in the Fall, and cast the seed on the snow, with very good success; on fields designed to be alternately in Grass, and tillage, the common practice of sowing Grass seed in the Spring with Grain, may consist with good husbandry, for as often as wet seasons ensue, the Grass will prosper tolerably well, and in case of a drouth which destroys the Grass, the rotation may be changed without any other loss than that of the seed; but on fields which are unsuitable for frequent ploughing, when we wish to have the cultivated Grasses remain as long as possible; and on sandy soils, where it is difficult to get a sufficient number of Grass plants established, the loss of a single Crop is trifling, in comparison with the grain which will be realized by sowing Grass seed in the month of August." In awarding this premium the Committee do not mean to admit that the experiment of Mr. Allen proves conclusively that this is the best method of laying down land to Grass; but that the labor, and result of his several experiments, induce them to recommend that the premium be awarded to him.

From the New-England Farmer.

Cider.

Good cider is probably as pleasant and wholesome a drink as any that is or can be made use of. Yet a very large proportion of the cider that is made is both unpalatable and unfit to be used. We not unfrequently hear people complaining that their cider is bad, and wondering what the cause of it is. Some people might be informed that it is neither mysterious nor unaccountable why they do not have good cider. If there be proper care and attention in making and managing cider, there is very little doubt but that it will be pleasant and good; while on the other hand, if suitable care and attention be wanting, it is as certain to be unpleasant and bad. There are a few things, the observance of which are necessary in order to have good cider. It does not depend altogether, nor principally, upon the kind of apples, for there are but few sorts but what will make good cider if rightly managed.

Apples should be thoroughly ripened, and gathered when perfectly dry and put into the cider house, where they should be kept until sufficiently mellow to be ground, which should be done before they become rotten and musty. Cider should always be made in cool weather, the wind blowing from the N. W. If it be made when the wind blows from the South it is almost certain that it will be hard and unpleasant. Cider should not be pressed out of the pomace sooner than ten or twelve hours after the apples are ground, as the flavor will be better by thus remaining. After it is pressed out it should be strained through sand, which will take out all the sediment, and thereby prevent its working or fermenting too much. This operation is simple and easy, and attended with very little labor or expense. Sand of a coarse kind should be procured from a river or pond and put into a cistern suitable for the purpose, first placing a layer of straw at the bottom to prevent its washing through. Having thus prepared for straining, put in water sufficient to wet the sand and thoroughly rinse out all the dust or fine dirt, which will be done as soon as the water runs clear. The cider should now be put into the cistern as it runs from the press, and as fast as it runs through the sand put into suitable casks and placed in a tight cool cellar, and after the fermentation is over be bunged tight, and thus remain until wanted for use.

Neatness and cleanliness are essential and indispensably necessary in order to have good cider. The cider mill, and every thing connected with it, should at all times be kept perfectly sweet. Pomace should not be permitted to remain on the press after the cider has done running from it, as it will immediately become sour, should the weather be warm. Straw and litter of every kind should be kept entirely away, except what is necessary to be used. The manure of the horse should be cleaned away as soon as it is dropped. In fact, the cider house, the mill, and every thing appertaining thereto, should be kept as free from dirt and filth of every kind even as the kitchen or parlor.

I know of one distinguished farmer who during the winter shelters his sheep and calves in his cider house. Another within my knowledge makes use of it as a slaughter house. He butchers his hogs therein, scalds them in his cider tub, and dresses them on the press. I have been at some cider mills where the straw and pomace, the horse droppings and other filth, rendered it almost impossible to stir about.

As long as habits of this description are persisted in, so long we must expect to hear people complaining about their cider. A Farmer.

Worcester, Sept. 1823.

Causes and Means of Agricultural Improvement.

The improvement of agriculture, like that of every art, manufacture, or commodity, necessarily depends on demand and production; a powerful or effectual demand will ensure produce, and excellent produce will, to a certain extent, create demand. A general nicety of taste in coach or saddle horses will call forth a superior description of those animals, and superior animals will tempt purchasers; if the inhabitants of any district who live chiefly on barley or oats, indicate a preference for wheat, and a willingness to pay for that grain, wheat will be produced and so on.—Again, as the object of every individual who engages in art or trade is to acquire gain, the advancement of an art will depend mainly on the profits it affords; an art or occupation which affords less than the average profits on capital, will only be followed by such as from habit or other reasons, cannot apply themselves to anything better, but extra profits will command both capital and skill. From these considerations it is obvious that the improvement of agriculture depends on the profits or capital employed in it, on the taste of those who purchase its products, and on the knowledge of those who are engaged in agriculture as a profession.

The desire of being comfortable is the first step towards improvement; but before anything can be desired, we must know what it is. Men rest satisfied with what they have when they know of nothing better. Could a taste for wheaten bread and butcher meat be introduced generally among

the operative classes in Scotland and Ireland, the advantages to agriculture would be immense.—Could the same persons be taught to desire a greater degree of cleanliness, light and warmth in their cottages, a greater variety of pot herbs, salads, fruits and flowers in their gardens, and handsome dresses for their wives and daughters, how great the general benefit!

The endeavoring to impress on the minds of the lower classes the propriety of being contented with the simplest and cheapest fare is extremely pernicious to the best interests of mankind. Encomiums ought not to be bestowed on those who are contented with mere necessaries; on the contrary such indifference ought to be held disgraceful. A taste for the comforts and enjoyments of life should be as widely diffused as possible, and if possible interwoven with the national character and prejudices. This, as it appears to us, is the best mode of attempting the amelioration of the lower classes. Luxuries, and if you will have it so, even wasteful habits are incomparably better than cold sluggish apathy, which would content itself with what can barely continue mere animal existence. "In those countries," Ricardo judiciously observes, "where the laboring classes have the fewest wants, and are contented with the cheapest food, the people are exposed to the greatest vicissitudes and miseries; they have no place of refuge from calamity; they cannot seek safety in a lower station; they are already so low that they can fall no lower. On any deficiency of the chief article of their subsistence there are few substitutes of which they can avail themselves, and dearth to them is attended with almost all the evils of famine." (*Sup. Encyc. Brit.* art. *Corn Laws.*) Such is the case in Ireland, where amidst the germs of the greatest riches and luxury the inhabitants are content to live on less than any other people in the world.—*Loudon.*

Inoculating Cheese.—What will the ingenuity of man not contrive? A method has been discovered of inoculating cheese: or, in other words, of transplanting the character of an old cheese into a new one. This rather curious scheme is brought forward as a communication to the Agricultural Journal for March, by John Robinson, Esq. Secretary of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. "If it be required," says he, "to communicate to a new cheese the flavor and appearance of an old one, it may be done by the insertion in the new cheese of portions of the old one containing blue mould. The little scoop which is used in taking samples of cheese is a ready made means of performing the operation, by interchanging ten or a dozen of the rolls which it extracts, and placing them so as to disseminate the germ of the blue mould all over the cheese. New Stilton cheese treated in this way, and well covered up from the air for a few weeks, becomes thoroughly impregnated with the mould, and generally with a flavor hardly to be distinguished from the old one. I have sometimes treated half a Lancashire cheese in this way, and have left the other half in its natural state, and have been much amused with the remarks of my friends on the striking superiority of the English over the Scotch one." If this ingenious plan be found really successful on repeated trials by others, Mr. Robinson will deserve our thanks for bringing it forward.

Draining.—Ponds—which have no natural outlet, may yet in most cases, be drawn off by sinking a well, or hole, through the stratum of clay, or other close earth which holds the water, until a stratum of gravel shall be found, into which water of the pond may be carried, when it will sink away. The well, or hole, should be filled up with stones, and the waters of the pond directed by ditches into it. Frequently the bottoms of ponds are found to be fine rich earths, and well worthy of cultivation. The draining of such ponds is also highly requisite, for the purpose of avoiding the miasma which proceeds from them, and which is so productive of fevers.—*Farmer's Assistant.*

Meteorological Table,

KEPT AT ROCHESTER, FOR SEPTEMBER, 1834.

Days.	10 A. M. therm.	10 A. M. barom-eter.	10 A. M. winds	10 A. M. sky	10 P. M. therm.	10 P. M. bar om eter.	10 P. M. winds.	10 P. M. sky
1	74	29,50	W	fair	71	29,50	S	fair
2	68	29,65	N	do	82	29,65	W	do
3	78	29,70	W	do	75	29,65	N	do
4	82	29,55	W	do	76	29,45	W	cloudy *a*
5	76	29,40	W	cloudy	66	29,30	W	fair *b*
6	72	29,50	N W	fair	65	29,50	N E	cloudy
7	68	29,55	E	cloudy	65	29,50	N E	do *c*
8	70	29,50	E	do	66	29,30	N E	do *d*
9	66	29,25	N	do	62	29,25	N W	fair *e*
10	60	29,25	W	fair	56	29,35	W	do *f*
11	55	29,50	N W	do	50	29,70	N W	do
12	56	29,85	W	do	56	29,90	W	do
13	66	29,95	S W	do	57	29,90	S W	do
14	66	29,90	W	do	56	29,85	W	do
15	70	29,80	S W	do	64	29,70	E	do *g*
16	74	29,70	W	do	67	29,65	S	do
17	72	29,60	W	do	69	29,45	S W	do *h*
18	82	29,40	S W	do	64	29,50	N E	cloudy
19	82	29,55	W	do	58	29,55	E	do
20	70	29,55	W	do	66	29,50	W	do
21	74	29,40	S W	do	56	29,40	N W	do
22	68	29,55	W	cloudy	58	29,45	N	do
23	65	29,35	S E	fair	68	29,55	N W	fair
24	54	29,55	N W	do	68	29,55	W	do
25	56	29,75	N W	do	65	29,55	S E	do
26	65	29,50	W	do	66	29,55	E	do
27	73	29,40	W	do	52	29,45	N W	cloudy
28	58	29,65	W	do	50	29,60	W	fair
29	60	29,85	N	do	48	29,90	N W	do *i*
30	56	29,85	S W	do	52	29,65	N W	cloudy

Mean daily temp. 65°—press. 29.57—rain 2.1 inch.

Mean Temp. of Sept. 1831 was 60° Sp. wa. 57
" " " 1832 " 62 " 56
" " " 1833 " 63 " 55
" " " 1834 " 65 " 59

First frost Sept. 29, 1831 Depth rain 2.4 inch.
" Oct. 15, 1832 " 1.7 "
" Sept. 10, 1833 " 1.5 "
" Sept. 29, 1834 " 2.1 "

The frost on the 29th ult., was a severe one and perfected the work of such unwelcome visitors thus early.

Ice was found of half an inch in thickness in some very exposed places.

a Thunder shower—*b* rainy, 0.6 in.—*c* rainy—*d* rainy—*e* rainy—*f* quite cold, 46° S. R.—*g* spring water 59°—*h* 84° 2 P. M.—*i* hard frost.

PRICES CURRENT.

ARTICLES.	PER	Oct. 2. ROCHESTER.	Sept. 29. NEW-YORK.
Ashes—Pot....	100lbs.	$3,40.....	$4,12 *a* 4,00
—— Pearl..	.....	3,60.....	4,75 *a* 4,85
Beeswax, yellow	lb.	0,18 *a* 0,20	21 *a* 22
Candles, mould	.....	0,10 *a* 0,11	13. *a* 14
—— dipped..	.....	0,09 *a* 0,10	11 *a* 12
Cloverseed.....	.....	6½..... ...	7 .*a*. 7½
Flax, American.	.....	.....	7½..*a*..00
Flax seed, clean	tierce	9,00*a*10,00	00,00 *a*0,00
Flour, Western.	barrel	4,75.....	5,18*a* 5,37
Grain, Wheat..	bushel	0,00*a*0,81½	1,03 *a*1,06
—— Rye....	.....	0,62.....	70.*a*..72
—— Oats...	.....	0,28.*a*..30	38.*a*..00
—— Corn...	.....	0,50.....	72.*a*..75
—— Barley..	.....	0,50.*a*..00	67.*a*..00
Hemp, Americ'n	ton	.....	100 *a* 120
Hops, 1st sort .	lb.	.....	22.*a*..24
Plaster Paris...	ton	6,50 *a* 0,00	2,00 *a*2,25
Beef, Mess....	barrel	8,00 *a*10,00	9,50 *a* 10,00
—— Prime....	.....	6,00 *a* 8,00	6,25 *a* 6,50
Pork, Mess....	.....	14,00*a*15,00	13,50*a*14,50
—— Prime....	.....	11,00	9,00*a*10,00
—— in the hog.	100lbs.	4,00.....	....
Tallow.....	.....	6,00 *a* 7,00	6,75 *a* 7,00
Hay.....	ton	8,00 *a* 10,00	9,75*a*11,20
Apples.....	bushel	50.*a*.100	.....

New Establishment.

THE subscribers having entered into Co-partnership in the Seed and Horticultural business generally, under the firm of Reynolds & Bateham, would give notice that they will receive, in a few days, a large and well selected assortment of new and choice Garden, Field and Flower Seeds, Bulbous Roots, Green-House Plants, Horticultural and Agricultural Implements, Books, &c., and that a Seed Store and Horticultural Repository will be opened at No. 60 Buffalo-street.

W. A. REYNOLDS,
M. BATEHAM.

Rochester, Oct. 1, 1834. oct 2-a6tfr2t

Seed Corn Wanted.

WE wish to contract for 150 or 200 bushels of first quality Seed Corn, of the different varieties. It must be fine selected ears, traced up in the husk, and be delivered by the 1st January. A fair specimen of the corn will be required on making the contract, and a liberal price in cash will be paid.

REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

At the office of A. Reynolds in the Arcade.
Rochester, Oct. 4, 1834. f1t. r1t.

For Sale.

ASPARAGUS, Sea Kail and Rhubarb or Pie Plant Roots. Also, a fine assortment of Strawberry Vines, (including the Monthly or Everbearing, with ripe fruit and blossoms now on them) at the garden formerly occupied by N. Goodsell.

REYNOLDS & BATEHAM.

Rochester, Oct. 4, 1834. fr2t.a6t.

Bourding School.

THE subscriber has made some additions to his buildings for the better accommodation of his school, and continues to take pupils under 12 years old, in the ordinary branches of Reading, Writing, Arithmetic, English Grammar and Geography, at $18 per quarter, counting the quarter 12 weeks. Those over that age in the same branches at $20—beds and washing not included. Beds can be furnished, if not all engaged before the application, at $1,50 per quarter, and washing will be done at 25 cts. per dozen.

Instructions will be given during the ensuing winter in the use of the Globes, Delineation of Maps, and in the elementary branches of Mathematics, (including Land Surveying,) Astronomy, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and particularly Mechanical Philosophy, with appropriate experiments. There will also be a class commencing the Latin Grammar. For the latter branches there will be an additional charge of from $3 to $5. SILAS CORNELL.

REFERENCES.

Abm. M. Schermerhorn and Hoyt & Porter, Rochester; George Penfield, Penfield; Col. C. Cady, Mendon; Edward S. Townsend, Palmyra.

Linden Hill, (*4 miles N. W. of Rochester,*)
10 *mo. 1st,* 1824.

Superior Seed Wheat.

THE subscriber has now for sale, (growth of the present year,) a quantity of fine seed Wheat—among which are a few bushels of a choice red wheat, imported last year from Trieste, on the Gulf of Venice, by Col. George Williams, of Flushing, Long Island, who raised the present season a beautiful crop of seed, and has kindly spared a few bushels. The produce on his own farm was thirty-five bushels to the acre—weight 56 lbs. per bushel. It is a very plump, clean grain, and will no doubt succeed well at the south. Farmers generally would do themselves a service by sowing, if only one peck, of this valuable grain, the time for which is at hand—price $3 per bushel—original seed cost $6 per bushel. Also, Rochester White Flint Wheat—$2 50 per bushel. Also, Black Sea Wheat—a fall wheat of excellent quality, raised in Massachusetts—price $2 50 per bushel—product 40 bushels per acre. Also, China Spring Wheat—a very productive summer grain—original seed from China: This wheat has attracted much attention among the agriculturists of New England, where the seed now offered was raised—price $3 per bushel.

On hand a general and complete assortment of Garden Seeds, growth of 1834. White and Red Clover, Lucerne, Orchard Grass, Blue Grass, Herds Grass, Timothy Seed, true Guinea Grass, &c. Wholesale dealers supplied on very advantageous terms, either, by the pound or bushel, or if more convenient neatly put up in papers ready for use. Every article warranted genuine.

GEO. C. THORBURN, 67 Liberty st.

To a Flower.

Dawn, gentle flower,
From the morning earth!
We will gaze and wonder
At thy wondrous birth!

Bloom, gentle flower!
Lover of the light,
Sought by wind and shower,
Fondled by the night!

Fade, gentle flower!
All thy white leaves close;
Having shone thy beauty,
Time 'tis for repose.

Die, gentle flower!
In the silent sun!
So—all thy pangs are over,
All thy tasks are done.

Day hath no more glory,
Though he soars so high:
Thine is all man's story,
Live—and love—and die!

Natural History.

CAMPHOR,

Which is so much used for medical purposes, is likewise extensively employed in the composition of varnishes, especially that of copal. It is the peculiar product of the root of a species of laurel (*Laurus camphorata,*) a tree growing in China, Japan, and several parts of India. The leaves of this plant stand upon a slender footstalk, and have an entire undulate margin running out into a point. Their upper surface is of a lively and shining green; the under part is of a yellower green, and of a silky appearance; a few lateral nerves curve towards the margin, frequently terminating in small warts or excrescences—a circumstance peculiar to this species of laurel. The footstalks of the flowers do not come forth until the tree has attained considerable age and size. The flower stalks are slender, and branch at the top, dividing into very short stems, each supporting a single flower. This is white, and succeeded by a shining purple berry of the size of a pea. It is composed of a small kernel enclosed in a soft pulpy substance, having the aroma of cloves and camphor. The bark of the stem of the tree is outwardly somewhat rough; but on the inner surface it is smooth and mucous, and therefore readily separated from the wood, which is dry and of a white color. Some travelers affirm that old trees contain camphor so abundantly that on splitting the trunk it is found in the form of large tears, so pure as not to require rectification. The usual method, however, of obtaining this substance is from the roots, pieces of which are put into an iron vessel furnished with a capital, or large head; this upper part is internally filled with cords of rice straw; the joinings are then luted, and the distillation proceeded upon. On the application of heat the camphor sublimes and attaches itself to the straw within the head. The Dutch purify the substance thus obtained by mixing an ounce of quicklime with every pound of the camphor, and subjecting it to a second sublimation in large glass vessels.

Camphor is well known as a white friable substance, having a peculiar aromatic odour, and a strong taste. Some chemists consider it as a concrete vegetable oil. It melts at a temperature of 288°, and boils at 400° Fahrenheit. Its specific gravity is less than that of water. It is very inflammable, burning with a white flame and smoke, and leaving no residue. Alcohol, ether, and oils dissolve it. The only indication whereby it appears that water acts upon camphor is that of acquiring its smell; it is said, however, that a Spanish surgeon has effected the solution in water by means of carbonic acid.* Camphor may be burned as it floats on the surface of water. It is not altered by mere exposure to atmospheric air, but it is so extremely volatile that if in warm weather it is placed in an open vessel it evaporates completely. It dissolves in alcohol, and like the resins, is immediately precipitated again by the addition of water.

Camphor has been found to exist in numerous plants whence it may be obtained by distillation. Neumann, and other chemists extracted it from the roots of zedoary, thyme, sage, the inula helenium, the anemone, the basque flower, and some other vegetables. Experiment has shown that the plants whence it is extracted afford a much larger quantity of camphor when the sap has been suffered to pass to the concrete state by several months' drying.

This substance was very early known to the Eastern nations; it was introduced into Europe by the Arabians, but was entirely unknown to the ancient Greeks and Romans.

* Ure's Dictionary of Chemistry.

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THE BAMBOO

Is a native of the hottest regions of Asia. It is likewise to be found in America, but not in that abundance with which it flourishes in the old world. It is never brought into this country in sufficient supply for any useful purposes, being rather an object of curiosity than of utility. But in the countries of its production it is one of the most universally useful plants. "There are about fifty varieties," says Mr. London, in his Botanical Dictionary, "of the *Arundo bambos*, each of the most rapid growth, rising from fifty to eighty feet the first year, and the second perfecting its timber in hardness and elasticity. It grows in stools which are cut every two years. The quantity of timber furnished by an acre of bamboos is immense. Its uses are almost without end. In building it forms almost entire houses for the lower orders, and enters both into the construction and furniture of those of the higher class. Bridges, boats, masts, rigging, agricultural and other implements and machinery; carts, baskets, ropes, nets, sail-cloth, cups, pitchers, troughs, pipes for conveying water, pumps, fences for gardens and fields, &c. are made of it. Macerated in water it forms paper; the leaves are generally put round the tea sent to Europe; the thick inspissated juice is a favorite medicine. It is said to be indestructible by fire, to resist acids, and, by fusion with alkali, to form a transparent permanent glass."—*Penny Mag.*

Monroe Horticultural Garden & NURSERY.

THE subscriber offers to the public a choice selection of Fruit Trees, of French, German, English and American varieties, consisting of Apples, Pears, Plums, Peaches, Cherries, Apricots, Nectarines, Quinces, Currants, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Strawberries, Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Hardy Roses, Vines, Creepers, Herbaceous Perennial Plants, Bulbous Roots, &c. &c.

ALSO—A few hundred of the Morus Multicaulis, or Chinese Mulberry, the White Italian Mulberry by the hunbred or thousand, Grape Vines of both native and foreign varieties, mosty of large size, for sale by the single vine, hundred or thousand, at reduced prices. The subscriber has a large collection of Green-House Plants of choice and select varieties, and in good condition.

Orders by mail or otherwise will be promptly attended to, and packages delivered in Rochester, or at the Canal one mile from the Nursery.

☞ Orders for *Mr.* Rowe's Nursery received by the Publisher of this paper.

Catalogues will be sent to those who wish them, gratis, or may be had by calling at the office of the Genesee Farmer. ASA ROWE.

Greece, *M*onroe co. N. Y. Sept. 13, 1834.

The New American Orchardist,

OR an account of the most valuable varieties of Fruit, adapted to cultivation in the climate of the United States, from the latitude of 25 deg. to 54 deg., with their uses, modes of culture and management; remedies for the maladies to which they are subject, from noxious insects, and other causes, &c. Also, a brief description of the most ornamental forest trees, shrubs, flowers, &c., by William Kenrick. Price $1. For sale by
sept 19 HOYT & PORTER.

COBB'S MANUAL OF CULTURE OF SILK, &c. for sale by
HOYT & PORTER.

ELECTION NOTICE.

Sheriff's Office, Rochester, August 14, 1834.

A GENERAL Election is to be held in the county of Monroe on the 3d, 4th, and 5th days of November next, at which will be chosen the officers mentioned in the notice from the Secretary of State, of which a copy is annexed.

E. M. PARSONS, Sheriff
of the county of Monroe.

STATE OF NEW-YORK, SECRETARY'S OFFICE,
Albany, Aug. 1, 1834.

SIR—I hereby give notice that at the next General Election, which is to be held on the 3d, 4th and 5th days of November next, a Governor and Lieutenant Governor are to be elected.

Notice is also given that two Senators are to be chosen in the Eighth Senate District, one in place of Trumbull Cary, whose term of service will expire on the last day of December next, and the other in the place of John Birdsall, resigned, whose term of service will expire on the last day of December, 1835.

JOHN A. DIX,
Secretary of State.

To the Sheriff of the county of Monroe.

N. B.—The Inspectors of Election in the several towns in your county will give notice of the election of a Representative to Congress from the Twenty-eighth Congressional District; also for the choice of Members of Assembly, and for filling any vacancies in County offices that may exist.

☞ All public newspapers in this county will publish the above, and send their bills to the Sheriff of the county. aug 16.

Axtell's Portable Patent Cast

IRON THRASHING MACHINE & HORSE POWER.

THE above Machine and Power can be seen at the Court-House Yard, or opposite E. & H. Lyon's Woolen Factory, near Kempshall & Bush's Furnace. The Power is entirely cast iron, also the Machine, with the exception of the covering to the Machine and staves in the cylinder which the teeth are set into. There are upwards of 40 of the above Machines in operation in Ontario county and vicinity, and take the preference of any manufactured in that quarter. It is useless to state the good properties of the Machine, as there has been so much deception heretofore practiced by Thrashing Machine makers, but if persons wishing to purchase would call and examine, we think they can be satisfied that it is preferable to any kind yet in use.

They have been thoroughly tested, having been used for upwards of a year.

Application for information to *Kempshall & Bush*, few doors north of Eagle Tavern, State-st. or *Stephen Clark*, at Monroe House, on Buffalo-st.

DE GRAFF & TOWNSEND.

Rochester, N. Y. Aug. 29, 1834.

AXTELL'S *Cast Iron Horse Power and Thrashing Machine*, has been used in thrashing one day by my hands for the purpose of exhibiting it. It was drawn by two horses and two oxen, the oxen drawing singly. It was no more than moderate work for them. The Power and Machine appeared to operate well; full as well, and in some respects better, than any I have seen in operation. I did not examine the straw or wheat after thrashing. At the rate it was used when in operation it would, if that rate had been continued all day, have thrashed 300 bushels, and probably more. I know of no reason to suspect that the wheat was not thrashed clean, or that it was cut or broken—it is not fanned. The persons in my employ thought the Machine and Power altogether superior to any other Machine in use in this quarter. SELLECK BOUGHTON.

Rochester, N. Y. Aug. 29, 1834.

This may certify that I have used AXTELL'S *Patent Cast Iron Thrashing Machine and Horse Power*, and can say it will thrash faster and with more ease for the horses than any other machine I have seen. I thrashed, when I first operated it, sixty bushels wheat in one hour and a half, without urging the horses any faster than I should naturally drive during the day. The Machine does not break the wheat, and thrashes clean, and I had no difficulty of any part of Power or Machine breaking.

I have seen quite a number of different kinds of Thrashing Machines operated, and I give the above Machine and Power the preference over any I have yet seen. BARNARD M. HOWARD.

Brockport, Aug. 22, 1834.

We are well acquainted with Mr. HOWARD, and know him to be a farmer of the first respectability; and believe what he states above to be correct.

ROBY, GOOLD & Co.

Brockport, Aug. 22, 1834. sept 3-tf